

Remarks

The final Office Action mailed January 18, 2006 rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 14-16, allowed claims 11, 12 and 17, and objected to claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13.

The Applicant has hereinabove provided post-final amendments to the claims including amendments to the language of claims 1, 6 and 9, the cancellation without prejudice of claim 13, and the addition of new claims 18-21.

Independent claim 1 now generally features steps of *comparing a track profile* for a first track to a *predetermined threshold*, and determining a head positioning profile for the first track in relation to the track profile for the first track and a track profile for a second track *in response to said comparison* (Claim 1, emphasis added). Support for this includes the language of cancelled claim 13 and block 806 in FIG. 8.

Independent claim 6 now generally features a step of determining a head positioning profile for a first track in relation to a track profile for the first track in combination with a track profile for a second track *and a non-zero weighting value* (Claim 6, emphasis added). Support for this includes the language of claim 9 and in the specification at page 6, lines 21-25. Dependent claim 9 has generally been amended to better conform to claim 6.

New claim 18 is an independent method claim that generally features steps of comparing a track profile for a first track to a predetermined threshold, and determining a head positioning profile for the first track in relation to the track profile for the first track in response to said comparison. Support for this includes claim 1 above, as well as in the specification at page 8, lines 16-25 ("*Alpha is a weighting value between 0 and 1. If Alpha=0, then it is a normal ZBE using profile information for a single track.*").

Thus, claim 18 covers the disclosed situation where alpha=0 and hence, the "second track" is not factored into the head positioning profile determination. This subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner with respect to the examination of claims 9 and 13. New claims 19-21 generally correspond to the subject matter of claims 1, 3 and 4 respectively.

These amendments are proper, do not introduce new matter or raise new issues that require further consideration or search, and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance. Entry of these post-final amendments are thus respectfully solicited.

Objection to Claim 15

Claim 15 was objected to for the use of the term "the track profile." The Applicant believes that the amendments to base claim obviate this objection, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection on this basis.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6-10, 15 and 16 were rejected under §112, first paragraph for failure to meet the written description requirement. More particularly, the Examiner identified the phrase "zero acceleration path (ZAP) information" as not being supported by the specification as originally filed.

While this rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis that the language was fully supported (see e.g., page 3, lines 12-14; page 8, lines 16-18), the Applicant has hereinabove

substituted the language "track profile" therefor. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §112, first paragraph are respectfully requested on this basis.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 14-16 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,989,047 to Shishida et al. ("Shishida '047"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shishida '047 at least fails to disclose a method comprising steps of comparing a track profile for a first track to a predetermined threshold, and determining a head positioning profile in response to said comparison, as now generally recited by claim 1.

Instead, Shishida '047 merely determines an average repeated runout (RRO) value for a number of tracks and applies this value to reduce RRO effects. See e.g., col. 5, lines 17-41.

Thus, while Shishida '047 recognizes that RRO effects can induce track squeeze, Shishida '047 calculates and applies the compensation values in a global fashion. Shishida '047 fails to recognize that individual tracks can have significantly different track profile characteristics (see e.g., FIG. 2 of the present application), and fails to disclose a solution to this problem.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 defines subject matter that is patentable over the art of record including Shishida '047. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested on this basis.

Similarly, Shishida '047 is silent with regard to disclosing a head positioning profile for a first track in relation to a track profile for the first track in combination with a track profile for a second track and a non-zero weighting value, as now generally recited by claim

6. Instead, as mentioned above Shishida '047 merely averages RRO components for a number of tracks and applies this globally.

Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to define patentable subject matter over Shishida '047 and the other art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6, as well as for the claims depending therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims 18-21

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111, new claims 18-21 are also believed to be patentable over the art of record. As discussed above, claim 18 is generally directed to the disclosed "ZAP by exception" wherein an individual track is selected for processing in relation to comparison of the associated track profile to a predetermined threshold. See e.g., page 10, lines 13-15.

Claim 18 is thus believed to be patentable on the basis that this is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Shishida '047 or the other art of record, as well as on the basis that this subject matter has previously been indicated as being allowable from the allowability of claims 9, 11 and 13.

Claims 19-21 are believed to be patentable over the art of record on the basis that these claims depend from a patentable base claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 11, 12 and 17, and the indication of allowability of dependent claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13.

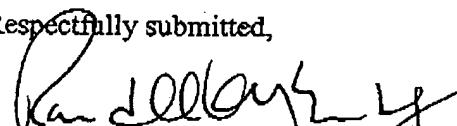
Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the final Office Action mailed January 18, 2006. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney should any questions arise concerning this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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